

5 JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER
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RUMORS: TRUE OR FALSE?

Justice Department officials, of all people, are fuming over CIA Director William Casey's threats to prosecute news organizations that publish sensitive security information. TRUE.

It's not just that Attorney General Edwin Meese's nose is out of joint because Casey apparently thinks he can dictate administration prosecution policy -- which is Justice's bailiwick -- but department officials are appalled at Casey's cavalier threats. They feel he only served to drum up maximum publicity (most of it unfavorable) when the matter could have been handled discreetly -- and more effectively. They also are upset that he popped off without checking first with the White House.